



NYFA Newsletter

New York Flora Association - New York State Museum Institute

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THE NEW YORK FLORA ASSOCIATION (in conjunction with the Bailey Hortorium) PRESENTS A VIOLET WORKSHOP WITH DR. HARVEY BALLARD

Who: Dr. Harvey Ballard is Associate Professor of Plant Systematics and Evolution in the Department of Environmental & Plant Biology of Ohio University, Athens, OH.

Harvey Ballard has authored numerous papers and treatments on Violets and Violet systematics including the treatment of Violaceae for the recent "The Plants of Pennsylvania" and has become a regional expert on the group.

What: This will be an advanced intensive weekend studying Violets of the Ithaca, NY region. Most of our time will be spent in the field learning to identify and distinguish the numerous species of violets that occur in the area, in their native habitats. We will also have some indoor time to review and examine materials collected in the field or brought by participants.

When: Friday May 9th (evening) to Sunday May 11th (afternoon), 2008.

Where: Ithaca, New York. We will be based out of the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell

University and will spend most of the weekend in the field in the Ithaca area.

Cost: Cost includes the entire weekend program and a group dinner at a local restaurant Saturday evening. Other meals and housing are the obligation of the participants. Total cost is about \$105.

What to bring: a 10x hand lens is a must, field journal, appropriate clothing to be outside most of the day, specimens (if you have some problems you need help with), and bag lunches for Saturday and Sunday (these can be purchased locally, in the morning).

Registration: Participation is limited to 15 so please sign up early to assure a slot. To register please send a check made out to the New York Flora Association for the full amount to David Werier / 30 Banks Rd. / Brooktondale, NY 14817.

Questions: Please contact David Werier / 607-273-1765 / Nakita@lightlink.com / 30 Banks Rd. / Brooktondale, NY 14817.

2008 Sedge Workshop- Location Pending

The New York Flora Association is sponsoring a 2 day workshop starting Thursday July 10th through Friday July 11th with an optional Wednesday evening session on July 9 for work

with your specimens. Dr. Tony Reznicek (University of Michigan), the renowned *Carex* expert and author to various FNA Cyperaceae treatments, will again lead the workshop. Several locations in the State are under consideration pending a final decision soon. The workshop will include both lab and field exercises. All participants are encouraged to bring plant material from their areas of interest for evening id and discussions with Tony. The workshop will focus on sedges, but rushes and grasses will be discussed also. Participation is limited to the first twenty registrations received. Workshop costs and final details will be available soon. Questions and to reserve a spot contact Ed Frantz, 315 793-2421, efrantz@dot.state.ny.us

ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS OF THE NEW YORK FLORA ASSOCIATION (Approved 21 March 2008)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the New York Flora Association (NYFA or the Association).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

As defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, NYFA has been organized to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild in New York State. The goals of the organization are:

1. to promote the study of New York State's Flora;
2. to encourage the production of botanical publications that are educational to the public and beneficial to the scientific community;
3. to provide an umbrella organization for field and herbarium botanists that can represent their points of view;

4. to serve as an information exchange for botanically related organizations and botanists active in New York State; and to foster the pursuit of common interests;
5. to support the continued development of the New York Flora Atlas; and
6. to promote conservation of native plants and natural communities.

ARTICLE III: NYS MUSEUM INSTITUTE

- §1. The New York Flora Association (NYFA) is organized under the By-Laws of the New York State Museum Institute (Article II, sec 1c). NYFA is governed by the By-Laws of the NYS Museum Institute and is accountable to the NYS Museum Institute Board of Trustees.
- §2. No act of NYFA or its council shall be in conflict with the NYS Museum Institute By-Laws. If there is a conflict, the By-Laws of the NYS Museum Institute are to be followed. If NYFA disbands, all non-dispersed funds will go to the NYS Museum Institute.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- §1. Eligibility
- A. Any individual who supports the purposes and goals as outlined in ARTICLE II may become a member as specified by the then-current membership policies of NYFA.
 - B. The Board of Directors may establish and revise classifications of membership as the Board may deem relevant and equitable. Such memberships may include individual memberships, family memberships, institutional memberships, organizational or group memberships, and honorary memberships.
- §2. Dues
- A. The Board of Directors shall establish, and may revise from time to time, annual dues rates for each membership classification and may also establish dues rates for longer periods of time including life memberships.
 - B. Membership in NYFA becomes effective upon payment of annual dues and lapses when dues become delinquent.

C. New member dues paid after June 30th will apply to the next calendar year.

§3. Voting

- A. Each individual member shall be entitled to cast one vote on any matter subject to or submitted to a vote of the entire membership.
- B. The Board of Directors may establish policies governing voting by members who belong to all other membership classifications.

§4. Continuation and Termination of Membership

- A. Each eligible applicant for membership shall, subject to termination provisions set forth later in this section, continue as a member so long as all applicable dues are paid annually.
- B. Members will be dropped from the Association when their dues are in arrears one calendar year.
- C. Memberships may be reinstated by payment of current dues.
- D. The Board of Directors may terminate any membership upon finding that a member has acted contrary to the purposes of NYFA, violated the NYFA's policies as established by the Board, or utilized the name of NYFA or identification with NYFA without authority and contrary to NYFA's policies as established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

§1. Power and Authority of Board of Directors

The NYFA Board of Directors shall have full power to manage the Association, including the power to make financial decisions, assign duties, create committees, appoint committee chairs, appoint a Newsletter Editor, and to delegate authority as needed.

§2. Composition

The NYFA Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors-at-large, the Immediate Past President, and the Newsletter Editor. Active members of NYFA may be elected to the Board and must be members in good standing during their tenure of office. All of the above shall be voting members of the Board of Directors. Ex-officio, nonvoting liaisons to the Board may be appointed from the New York State Museum Institute, the New York State Biological Survey, and other entities the Board may deem relevant.

§3. Number of Board Members and Terms of Office

- A. The Board of Directors shall be composed of no fewer than 7 members and no greater than 15.
- B. Terms shall begin immediately following the Annual Meeting, or at whatever time votes can be validated, and last for 3 years.

§4. Nominations of Board Members

The names of the Nominating Committee members, a list of the Board positions to be filled, and the names of the nominees for Board Members are to be published in the NYFA newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting or reported to the membership by mail, email, or other alternative form of technology along with a notification of the meeting. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate for each open position. Additional nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee for consideration or made via write in of names on the ballot.

§5. Elections of Board Members

Elections for the NYFA Board of Directors shall be conducted by the Nominations Committee and held every year at the Annual Meeting. Ballots shall be cast by mail, email, or some other alternative form of technology prior to the Annual Meeting or at the Annual Meeting. The existing Board shall resolve all ties by a vote.

§6. Elections of Officers of the NYFA Board of Directors

- A. Elections of officers of the NYFA Board of Directors shall occur at the first Board meeting following the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of offices to be filled and suggest a slate for consideration by the Board.
- B. Officer terms shall be for one year, concluding when his/her successor is elected.

§7. Duties and Powers of the NYFA President. The President shall:

- A. be the chief representative of NYFA;
- B. preside at meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors;
- C. be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee;
- D. perform other recognized duties of the office;
- E. have served at least one year on the Board of Directors before taking office;
- F. have authority to act for the Treasurer when the Treasurer is unavailable; and

G. be a resident of or work in New York State.

§8. Duties and Powers of the NYFA Vice-President. The Vice-President shall:

- A. preside at meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors in the absence of the President;
- B. perform the recognized duties of the office;
- C. fulfill the term of the office of President if that office becomes vacant; and
- D. chair the Grants and Awards Committee.

§9. Duties and Powers of the NYFA Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- A. ensure that minutes are taken of all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors;
- B. in cooperation with the Treasurer, maintain a roster of active members of the Association;
- C. oversee all correspondence of the Association, including website development;
- D. preside at meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors in the absence of both the President and Vice President; and
- E. chair the Field Trips and Seminars Committee.

§10. Duties and Powers of the NYFA Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- A. in cooperation with the Secretary, maintain a roster of active members of the Association;
- B. maintain contact with the NYS Museum Institute financial officer;
- C. chair the Finance Committee;
- D. keep and maintain accurate accounts of the transactions of the Association, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements;
- E. deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Association with such depositories as may be authorized by the Board;
- F. disburse the funds of the Association as may be authorized by the Board or by a vote of the membership of the Association, render to the members of the Board, upon request, an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the Association;
- G. complete all paperwork necessary to maintain and report the Association's not-for-profit status as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- H. present an annual report to the Board on or before March 31 of each year and publish said report in NYFA Newsletter.

§11. Termination of Office

A Directorship is terminated upon death, resignation, or involuntary removal from office. A Board member may resign at any time by submitting written notification to the Board, the President, or the Secretary-Treasurer. Involuntary removal of office might occur in following situations:

- A. Board membership shall be terminated if a member has three consecutive unexcused absences.
- B. At any time the membership may recall any officer, standing committee chairman, or director-at-large for failure to perform the duties required of the position or for any action inconsistent with NYFA's aims and objectives. A recall vote must be requested in the form of a petition signed by at least 2/3 of the Board. Once the petition has been verified by the Board of Directors, the Nominations Committee shall distribute a Ballot of Recall for the said position(s). A recall shall be initiated with an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the voting membership.

§12. Vacancies

A vacancy of any office other than that of President may be filled by a vote of the Board of Directors. In the event that a vacancy of the office of President and Vice-President occur simultaneously, the Board of Directors shall appoint an interim President to complete the term of office.

§13. Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board meets regularly or irregularly at times established by the Board. Special meetings may be called by the President and may be called at the written request of three (3) members of the Board. At any special meeting, only the business specified in the notice of the meeting may be transacted. Written notice of the date, time, place, and purposes of the special meeting will be sent to each Board member at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

§14. Quorum

Quorum shall constitute more than half of the Board of Directors in office. If a quorum is present, a majority vote of those present will prevail, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

§15. Action Without a Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a

meeting if the text of the resolution or matter agreed upon is sent to all of the Board members via mail or email. Consent in writing via mail or email has the same force and effect as a vote of the Board at a meeting and may be described as such in any document executed by the Association.

§16. Telephonic Presence

Any or all Board members may participate in a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board by means of conference telephone call in which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another. Such participation constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

§17. Honorary Board Members

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to appoint an unlimited number of Honorary Board Members of the Association. Such Honorary Board members shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors and shall serve for a term of three (3) years. There shall be no limit as to the number of consecutive terms that an Honorary Board members may serve.

§18. Rules of Order

At the meetings of the Board, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall apply when procedures are not specified by these Bylaws.

§19. Liability of Board of Directors

In any proceeding brought by or in right of the Association or brought by or on behalf of members of NYFA, no Officer or Director-at-large of NYFA is liable for monetary damages except in respect of willful misconduct or knowing violation of criminal law by that officer or director-at-large.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

§1. Annual Meetings

The Association shall hold an annual meeting, at the time and place to be set by the Board of Directors.

§2. General and Special Meetings

General meetings of NYFA shall be held at the dates and places to be decided by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time by either the Board of Directors or the written request of ten active members. All members shall be notified of such meeting, in writing at least two weeks in advance.

§3. Quorum

The members present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

§4. Field Trips

The Association shall offer at least two field trips each year.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees, as needed to accomplish the goals of NYFA, will be created by vote of the Board of Directors. Chairs of Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The majority of the members of the Standing Committees shall come from the NYFA membership. Each committee may adopt its own rules provided they are not inconsistent with its stated powers and duties or with these Bylaws. Committee Chairs may call committee meetings and a summary of meetings shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and entered into the minutes. A list of existing Standing Committees follows:

§1. Nominating Committee

A. Composition and Term

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee to consist of a Chair plus two additional members. At least one member must also be serving on the Board of Directors. The term of office for all members of the Nominating Committee is two (2) years, concurrent with the fiscal year. No member shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms. In case of a vacancy, the President appoints a new member to the Nominating Committee for the remainder of the term.

B. Duties

Acting by majority vote, the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of nominations for Directors-at-large (presented to the membership) and Officers (presented to the Board). Nominations by petition are automatically placed on the slate, without distinction from nominations from the Nominating committee. The committee shall conduct all elections of Directors-at-large and Officers.

§2. Native Plant Conservation Committee

The Native Plant Conservation Committee (NPCC) monitors issues affecting the native plants of New York and their habitats, informs the Board and membership of these issues, and promotes the conservation of native plants.

§3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee proposes an annual operations budget to the Board and suggests other fiscal directives to support the purpose of NYFA. The NYFA Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.

§4. Grants and Awards Committee

The Grants and Awards Committee (GAC) provides recognition awards for outstanding service, research, and presentation of botanically important projects in New York State. GAC administers the NYFA Small Grant Program in efforts to stimulate research, conservation, and educational activities contributing to scientific knowledge about plants of New York State. The Vice-President shall be the Chairperson of this Committee.

§5. Field Trips and Seminars Committee

The Field Trips and Seminars Committee (FTSC) promotes an understanding and appreciation of the flora of New York State through field trips, seminars, and workshops conducted by knowledgeable NYFA members and other botanical experts.

§6. Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter Committee shall create and edit the NYFA Newsletter to be published on a regular basis to the NYFA membership. The editor(s) of the NYFA Newsletter shall be chosen by the Board of Directors. The Newsletter Editor shall be the Chairperson of this Committee.

§7. New York Flora Atlas Committee

The New York Flora Atlas Committee (NYFAC) is responsible for maintaining the New York Flora Atlas. The New York Flora Atlas is a joint effort between the New York Flora Association, the New York Natural Heritage Program, the New York State Museum, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and other partner herbaria with the goal to provide users with a comprehensive searchable database of the vascular and non-vascular plants of New York State.

§8. NY Flora Taxonomy and Nomenclature Committee

The New York Flora Taxonomy and Nomenclature Committee provides advice to Association members and the New York Flora Atlas Committee on plant taxonomy and nomenclature.

ARTICLE VIII: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad hoc committees may be created as needed by the Board of Directors or as directed by a vote of the membership at a regular or special meeting of the Association. Each such committee shall be provided specific charges of responsibility and reasonable deadlines for final reports to be made to the Board of Directors and/or membership. Chairs of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the Board.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Any amendments made to these By-laws must be presented in writing to the NYFA membership. The Board of Directors shall give at least 30-days notice of their intention to amend or restate these bylaws in which members are encouraged to contact the Board and comment on changes. A resolution of amendment(s) to these By-laws must be passed by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.

New York Flora Association Election Slate - Board of Directors

With the recent passage of the New York Flora Association by-laws, NYFA's nomination committee proposed the following slate for the New York Flora Association Board of Directors. These candidates are up for election until June 15, 2008. **See back cover for ballot.** For this slate, all directors were up for election. In subsequent years, up to five members will be up for election each year.

Term Expires 2009:

1. Robert Ingalls, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
2. Andrew Nelson, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY
3. Troy Weldy, The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY
4. Steve Young, NY Natural Heritage Program, Albany, NY
5. Anne Johnson, field botanist, Lisbon, NY

Term Expires 2010:

1. Michael Corey, private consultant, Minerva, NY

2. Ed Frantz, NYS DOT, Utica, NY
3. Gerry Moore, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY
4. David Werier, private consultant, Brooktondale, NY
5. Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program, Albany, NY

Term Expires 2011:

1. Bruce Gilman, Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY
2. Joseph McMullen, Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc., Phoenix, NY
3. Adam Ryburn, SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta, NY
4. Connie Tedesco, field botanist, Cooperstown, NY
5. Priscilla Titus, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY

2008 FIELD TRIPS

Below are the field trip schedules for the New York Flora Association, Long Island Botanical Society, and Torrey Botanical Society. All trips for each group are included, even those that take place in adjacent states. Before attending a field trip, it is always a good idea to check the website of the group sponsoring the trip to check for any changes.

Announcing Genera Quest!

Genera Quest will be a series of field trips, over the next few years, sponsored by the New York Flora Association and other botanical groups around New York. While species are often very well-known to us, the characters that distinguish genera are often unfamiliar. These trips will have the goal of helping members observe, record, and learn the 1082 native and naturalized plant genera in New York and their representative species. While we have 486 genera that contain only exotic species, we will focus on genera that have at least one native

species existing in the state. Of the 599 native genera that grow in the state about 60% should be easy to find. Twenty-one percent are of medium difficulty, where it might take some searching to find them, and 15% will be hard to find with special trips planned.

Here's how it will work:

- NYFA and other New York botanical groups planning field trips can plan one or more as a Genera Quest trip.
- Before each field trip, Genera Quest will be explained and participants can choose to register free as a Genera Quest participant.
- Genus characters will be reviewed during the trips as new genera are observed.
- After each sponsored trip NYFA will be sent a list of the registered participants and genera seen and they will be posted on our web site. We will add as many of the participant's plant photographs as we can to the New York Flora Atlas. Details of the trips will be published in our newsletter.
- At our yearly conference we will recognize the top three individuals who observed the most genera that year.
- The project will be completed when all genera containing an extant native species have been recorded. At the end of the project the registered member of a sponsoring group who has recorded the most genera, and not presently on the NYFA board, will be awarded a **Grand Prize**. The NYFA board member recording the most genera will also be recognized and awarded bragging rights.

Since the Quest will take place over many field trips to every part of the state, including the High Peaks, it should be an interesting and challenging journey.

So far, the field trips that are sponsoring Genera Quest this year are:

7 June : NYFA field trip to **South of the Glen, near Warrensburg**, where we will observe plants growing along the Hudson River ice meadows. Take the northway to the Warrensburg/Diamond Point exit. Following State Route 9 through Warrensburg to a diagonal left turn on Hudson Street at the gazebo honoring aviator Floyd Bennett. Follow this road 2.5 miles, past the golf course on the left, to the entrance to the Warrensburg County Park parking lot on the left. We will meet here at 10 a.m. and hike to the river. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. Signup contact is Steve Young at 518-588-8360, or e-mail, young@nynhp.org.

26 July: Alley Pond Park and Marsh in Queens, in Association with Long Island Botanical Society. Botanist Andy Greller will be our leader. Meet at 10 AM at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Bayside, Queens, phone number is 718 229-4000. It is 300 yards east of the Cross Island Parkway, Northern Blvd. exit, south side of Northern Blvd. Signup contact is Steve Young at 518-588-8360, or e-mail, young@nynhp.org. See also description below under Long Island Botanical Society.

20 September: NYFA field trip to **Niagara Falls and Gorge**. Details in the next newsletter.

Please join us on all or some of our Genera Quest trips. We look forward to seeing you there!

Torrey Botanical Society

24 May (Saturday): CAMP SMITH TRAIL, WESTCHESTER CO., NY. Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot off Hwy 202/Hwy 6 on east side, north of Camp Smith entrance. Trip leader: Steve Glenn, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225-1008; 718-623-7314; Email: steveglenn@bbg.org.

19 July (Saturday): ARDEN WOODS, STATEN ISLAND, NY. - preserved as a New York City Forever Wild Site. Trip leaders: Tim Chambers and Camille Joseph, Greenbelt Native Plant Center, 3808 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314; 718-370-9044; Email: timothy.chambers@parks.nyc.gov, camille.joseph@parks.nyc.gov

23 August (Saturday): BLACK ROCK FOREST, ORANGE CO., NY. Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot near the Science Center on Reservoir Rd., Cornwall, NY. Trip leader: Matt Palmer, Columbia University E3B, 1200 Amsterdam Ave. MC 5557, New York, NY 10027; (212) 854-4767; Email: mp2434@columbia.edu.

13 September (Saturday): NELLIE HILL PRESERVE, DUTCHESS CO, NY. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the preserve. Leader: Sam Saulys, 203-481-9451 until 8 a.m. on trip day; Email: sam.saulys@comcast.net.

25 October (Saturday): HALLE RAVINE, POUND RIDGE, WESTCHESTER CO., NY. Meet at 10:00 AM. Trip leader: Carol Levine, Email: carolflora@oponline.net.

Long Island Botanical Society

14 June 14 (Saturday), 10 A.M: Pine Trail Preserve, Ridge/Calverton, NY. Trip Leader: David Laby. Meet at Pine Trail Preserve parking lot on south side of State Rte 25 in Ridge, a little east of William Floyd Parkway/rte 25 intersection.

26 June, 10 A.M. (Thursday): Flushing Meadows, Flushing, Queens, NY. Trip

Leader: Andy Greller. (Trip is organized by Queens Botanical Garden and co-listed here at LIBS). Meet at Queens Botanical Garden Administration Building, Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355. By Bus: From the Bronx, Jamaica, or Flushing, Q44 or Q20. By Train: No. 7 subway or Long Island Rail Road (Port Washington line) to Main Street/Flushing. Q44 or Q20 bus, or walk 8 blocks south to QBG. By Car: Via Midtown Tunnel: Tunnel to Long Island Expressway (East) to Exit 23 Main Street. Turn left onto Main Street. Follow to Dahlia Avenue and turn left. Dahlia Avenue becomes Crommelin Street. The parking lot entrance is on the left.

Via Triborough Bridge: Bridge to Grand Central Parkway to Long Island Expressway (East). Follow directions from Midtown Tunnel. From Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island: Belt Parkway or Jackie Robinson Parkway to Van Wyck Expressway to Exit 12A (College Point Boulevard). Follow College Point Boulevard to Blossom Avenue. Make right. Blossom Avenue becomes Crommelin Avenue. Make a quick right into the Garden's parking lot. From Long Island: Long Island Expressway (West) to Exit 23 Main Street. Make right turn on Main Street. Follow to Dahlia Avenue and turn left on Dahlia Avenue. Dahlia Avenue becomes Crommelin Street. The parking lot entrance is on the left. There is a fee for parking (\$5 or \$3 for QBG members)

Saturday, July 26, 2008 10 A.M.

Alley Pond Park, Queens, NY

Trip Leader: Andy Greller

Genera Quest at Alley Pond Park (trip for the New York Flora Association) Directions: Meet at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Bayside, Queens. It is 300 yds. E of Cross Island Parkway, Northern Blvd exit. See also description above under **Genera Quest!**

Botanical Researches in Central Part of State

Part V

By Joseph V. Haberer, M.D.

Transcribed by Steve Young, NYNHP

[In the early 1900s Dr. Joseph V. Haberer, a botanist from Utica, published a series of articles in The Utica Daily Press newspaper about botanists and plants of that region. I have transcribed the information to make it available for everyone to read. The information appeared in five parts from February to June of 1924.]

Mary Brewerton Hedges

Mary Brewerton Hedges was born at Elizabeth, New Jersey, October 4, 1832, and died of pneumonia in Norwich, Connecticut, January 22, 1920. In early childhood she was adopted by Rev. Samuel Fuller and wife of Rensselaerville, Albany County. She lived for one year with an aunt near Dixon, Illinois, an unhealthy neighborhood because of the prevalence of malaria. She received an academic education and taught school in the Hudson Valley and, while there, met with many of the superstitions described in Irving's "Sketch Book." Mrs. Hedges took lessons in art from James Hart of Albany while she was teaching in an Episcopal Church school and later spent a winter in the studio of the brothers Roudell as a pupil in watercolor. In this line of work she became famous, having held a very successful exhibition of paintings, some years ago at the gallery of the Utica public Library, in conjunction with other Uticans. She was very active in literary work contributing to many publications at Herkimer and elsewhere and was one time editor of the Rensselaerville Press, a weekly paper. She was married at Rensselaerville in 1858 to Rev. Joseph M. Hedges who later became director of Christ

Episcopal Church, Herkimer. He ministered to the parish eight years and died in Herkimer in 1864. Subsequent to her husband's death she took up teaching botany and art at Faribault, Minnesota. Mrs. Hedges had quite a repertoire of Indian reminiscences which she was fond of relating.

Botanical Discovery

In the early 70s while stationed at Faribault, Mrs. Hedges discovered and by sketches pointed out the specific characters of a new species of *Erythronium*, which was named by Dr. Asa Gray "*Erythronium propuliana*," because it produced offshoots from the side of the stem above the bulb (near the middle). It was described in the American Naturalist, July, 1871, and, although she was given credit at Harvard for her discovery, the plant should have been named in her honor because of her botanical accuracy and acumen. She devised and published Four Charts of the Plant, which were used for study in many of the schools in that section.

Activities in Utica

Mrs. Hedges took up her residence in Utica early in the 80's and became active as one of the charter members of the New Century Club, taking an active interest in its growth and at various times prepared and delivered lectures under its auspices and continued her interest in educational matters for many years. Her lectures in Utica, Oneida and other places were received with marked appreciation and were replete with charm to reader or hearer, no matter what topic she dwelt upon among the many with which she was familiar. Hers was a personification and endowment of mind and heart that was prolonged to a lengthy span and ever responded in the mellow kindness of her cheerful, sunny, sympathetic, youthful soul. A love of knowledge and of art, and an aptitude for acquiring them were gifts that enriched her own life and were helpful and a pleasure to

others. She had the ability to depict nature with pencil and brush, and no matter what line of thought she engaged in hers was the keen intelligent interest and a wonderful retentive memory. Mrs. Hedges was for some years on the staff of the Utica Conservatory of Music, teaching English literature. She was very much interested in the work of womens clubs and through her valuable insights and knowledge was able to prepare programs for study and investigation that were invaluable in covering the field chosen. She was a member of the Progressive Club and Home Aid at Herkimer.

Taught in Herkimer

In 1892 after a residence of several years in Utica, Mrs. Hedges received an urgent invitation to open a school at Herkimer and took up her home in that place where she conducted a kindergarten school in association with her daughter for about 10 years. The delightfulness, cheeriness and homelikeness of that school together with her motherly traits must be indelibly impressed on the minds of all who were her pupils as they are on my own.

Mrs. Hedges believed ardently in what makes for the progress of women and for her participation in the public functions, through which we make our government. She had been an ardent, earnest but quiet advocate of women's suffrage from the earliest day of the movement and rejoiced in its success as a factor for the realization of better and more balanced social conditions.

Possessed Brilliant Mind

Mrs. Hedges possessed a brilliant mind which years did not dim but was made keener by her constant reading and active life. She was remarkable for her preservation of mind and body and is missed for the good she did, the sweet charm of her culture and the vast store of knowledge which she used for the good of others.

Her kindness, helpfulness and assistance as a member of the Botany Club, from its inception, lasted for over a quarter of the century. Her sympathy, beautifully expressed when its founder was in sorrow shall not be forgotten as long as life lasts. Mrs. Hedges was one of the mainstays of the club. Through her encouragement by attendance at meetings, no matter what the weather, her hospitality to its members, her love and words of endearment for those who had gone before, her enthusiasm on all occasions, her undying interest in its continuance in existence and her most excellent essays on all matters pertaining to botany are treasures that will live and retain the spirit, and brighten the memory of the pleasures and social features as well as the scientific trend of that organization.

Mr. Gilbert, Mrs. Hedges, my lamented daughter and beloved helpmate, together with Father Wibbe, were the inspiration for all that organization or its founder did for the science of botany in Utica and its environs -- all have passed to their reward. Peace!

George S. Graves

George S. Graves, a keen observer and well posted botanist of Newport, New York, has supplied the writer with valuable specimens, and notes as well as a list of plants found by him in the valley of West Canada Creek.

Local Plants

Many cities and villages have what are known as local plants, growing in the streets, about waste places and grounds, in ballast and on embankments abundant and thoroughly at home but are not found elsewhere or are rare, doubtfully established and restricted in their distribution. Utica has such a plant growing abundantly in the escarpment of pavements, walls and walks. It was a curiosity to Professor Peck when he was here some years ago. As he

had not observed it elsewhere, he collected it for the state herbarium. It had escaped his eyes, however, for it grows under the same conditions in the streets of Albany and has been found elsewhere.

It is *Sagina procumbens* L. or pearlwort, and for years it has been abundant near the police station. Paine says wet sandy banks and shores, rare, but does not report it from the streets of Utica. It is a mossy looking plant which spreads its small branches over neglected garden walls, paths and walks, mingles with the grass of the lawn or insinuates itself into the pots in a greenhouse. A cursory observer would say it had no flowers, yet if you look close you will find small green crosses terminating the branches during the whole summer. These crosses are formed of the four sepals, which remain until the fruit is ripe. The petals are white but much smaller than the sepals, and generally absent altogether.

One of the most treasured papers ever read by Mrs. Hedges before the Botanical Club was entitled "Nature in February." Her concluding paragraph is, "Now we cannot live outdoors in February, but we can think outdoor thoughts and get our eyes trained to see the first glimpses of plant life that appear. There is never a step after the snow has gone that will not show and teach us something, literally not a step. When you tread the most prosaic of Utica pavements about midsummer, you will find their chinks filled with a tiny plant, root, leaves, faintly white tipped blossom, some score of which could be accommodated on a penny piece. It is a pearlwort, neighbor and kin to the pink family. The site of its small perfection in the Utica sidewalk chinks is always a pleasure to me, but except Dr. Haberer, who, of course, knew all about it, I never found anyone before my pointing it out, had ever noticed it." My first knowledge of this plant was on June 10, 1873. Professor Hunt and myself had been down on the flats near the Black River Railroad bridge in quest of a plant that has since

disappeared. Walking up Broadway together, this little plants caught my eye and I asked Mr. Hunt what it was. He was puzzled as it was new to him, and it was then and there determined. Subsequently it was my pleasure to add it to Mr. Gilbert's herbarium. Looking down from its lofty perch on a church tower at the pearlwort in the brickbat interstices below, was the famous "tree on a tower," for years Utica's greatest botanical curiosity. It first attracted my attention in 1869, when it was a single whip-like object which in time developed into a small tree and was *Pyrus* (*Sorbus*) *aucuparia* L., European mountain ash or rowan tree.

The plants mentioned as having disappeared was the *Fedia fagopyrum* T. and G. or *Valerianella* [*chenopodifolia*].

Lewis C. Brandegee

Louis C. Brandegee died of typhoid pneumonia at Hartford, Connecticut, November 29, 1873, aged 18 years and four days. He was the second son of the late Rev. John J. Brandegee, D. D., lamented rector of Grace Church in the city. He was a member of the class of 1873 of the Utica Free Academy, a young man of great promise, foremost in his classes, always laboring energetically at his tasks until his efforts were crowned with success. His death took place soon after he entered Trinity College where he had already taken a position in the front rank among his classmates. A brilliant course was abruptly terminated but his pure life and kindly matters are embalmed in memory.

His graduation oration was the Standard of Political Integrity at the Present Time.

Mr. Brandegee was a cherished companion in botanical studies. We collected *Hepatica* on Steele's Hill, May 4, and *Viola Selkirkii* Ph. ex Goldie, at Cascade Glen May 6, 1872, where we met our teacher, Edwin Hunt, and were together in the Deerfield ravine to collect

Dentaria maxima [*Cardamine maxima*] and *Shepherdia canadensis*, both being rare plants.

On the Mohawk flats just north of the Central Railroad tracks, June 13, 1872, we were the first to discover *Spiraea opulifolia* [*Physocarpus opulifolius*], Ninebark, in Oneida County, a shrub of the rose family long since exterminated. Full of enthusiasm, July 3, 1872, we explored what was left of the Oriskany swamp, a famous locality for many rare plants and, although much of its glory had vanished, the record in Paine's catalog was a stimulus to search for botanical treasures. We there first beheld *Cypripedium reginae* in full bloom. It was a hot day, a thunderstorm arose, there was no trolley then, no shelter was at hand, in the downpour of rain we were drenched to the skin, but we were repaid.

Satin Brome (*Bromus nottowayanus*) in New York

By David Werier

In early August of 2004, while botanizing the area east of Negundo Woods and the Cayuga Inlet in the south end of the City of Ithaca, I noticed an interesting species of *Bromus* (brome grass). At first I thought it might be *Bromus pubescens* (hairy wood brome) but the sheaths seemed especially hairy and the alluvial thickets I was in were the wrong habitat for *B. pubescens*. I started to see more of this grass and its characters remained consistent. This indicated that I was not seeing an aberrant individual but something distinct. Closer inspection led me to notice that the lower sheaths were covered in dense long soft hairs, the base of the nodes had retrorse hairs, and the glumes were evenly and densely pubescent. There was some *B. latiglumis* (flanged brome) growing nearby but it was clearly different. The inflorescences of *B. latiglumis* had not yet emerged and *B. latiglumis* has many more leaves per culm as well as the characteristic projecting auricles or

flanges at the summit of the sheaths. I collected a sample of the unknown *Bromus* and eventually headed home. On my way home, I thought I would try to find some *B. pubescens* for comparison. I drove up hill out of the Cayuga Inlet Valley on Sand Bank Road. I parked a little way up the slope of the valley and peeked into the somewhat dry and calcareous forests adjacent to the road. Immediately, I found some *B. pubescens* growing exactly where I would have expected it. The plants were clearly much further along and had begun to shed their seeds. The striking difference in phenology along with a few morphological characters assured me that the unknown *Bromus* I had found earlier in the day was something different.

At home I was able to key out the unknown *Bromus* to *B. nottowayanus* (satin brome). It keyed out pretty well except that the first glume had only one vein where as, according to Gleason and Cronquist (1991), it should have three veins. The other problem was that according to Gleason and Cronquist (1991) it was only known from Virginia and “occasionally reported from elsewhere”. Fernald (1970) had *B. nottowayanus* known only from Virginia but stated that the first glume had one or three veins. Hitchcock and Chase (1950) listed *B. nottowayanus* as occurring from Maryland west to Illinois and south to Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The species was not listed by Mitchell and Tucker (1997) from New York. As I mentioned, in the field, this species appeared strikingly different than its close relatives and also differed in phenology. So, why in such a heavily botanized area would this species go undetected? I began to wonder if this disjunct population in New York was here as a result of an accidental introduction but it also seemed clear that more work would be needed to clear up the mystery.

Fernald (1941) described *B. nottowayanus* from the Nottoway River in southeastern Virginia. At the time, Fernald believed that this species “is, so far as we yet know, ‘not away

from the Nottoway’.” Hitchcock and Chase (1950) expanded the range of the species including Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Wagnon (1952) expanded the range even further. He lists the range as New York and southern Ontario to Illinois and Missouri, south to southwestern North Carolina and Texas. Pavlick (1995) further expanded the range of this species stating that it occurs from northern Iowa to southern Ontario and southern Quebec, south to northern Georgia and eastern Texas. Interestingly enough, in the recent Flora of North America treatment (Pavlick and Anderton 2007), Quebec and Ontario are excluded from the range of *B. nottowayanus*. Still, all of New York has been recognized as part of the range of *B. nottowayanus*, from monographers, as far back as 1952 (Wagnon 1952).

Some of the confusion regarding this species perhaps stems from Wagnon’s (1952) treatment in which he indicates that “this plant is given specific rank with considerable doubt; it is in need of further study and may prove to be worthy of only varietal rank under *B. pubescens*.” Still, in Mitchell and Tucker’s (1997) checklist of New York State plants, they did not list *B. nottowayanus* as a species, synonym, or report. From my preliminary studies of this taxon I agree with the original assessment made by Fernald (1941) and recent assessments (Pavlick 1995, McKenzie and Ladd 1995, Pavlick and Anderton 2007) that this is a distinct taxon and worthy of species status.

I searched the specimens labeled as *B. pubescens* in the Bailey Hortorium (BH) and found 10 specimens that are actually *B. nottowayanus*. I annotated these specimens accordingly and along with my specimen from the area near Negundo Woods there are currently a total of 11 *B. nottowayanus* specimens from New York at BH (see list of specimens at end of article). These specimens are from only three counties in the state (Erie, Tompkins, and Washington). Wagnon (1952)

indicates on his dot map of *B. nottowayanus* a specimen from somewhere around the junction of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River (perhaps in Jefferson County). This record is missing in the Flora of North America treatment (Pavlick and Anderton 2007). Since most botanist in New York have been relying on regional floras (Fernald 1970, Gleason and Cronquist 1991) as well as the 1997 checklist of plants from New York (Mitchell and Tucker 1997), they have not realized that *B. nottowayanus* is part of the flora of New York. Consequently, this species has probably been overlooked in the state and more searches will reveal additional populations. Still, *B. nottowayanus* is near or at its northeastern edge of its range in New York and may be an uncommon or even rare species in the state. Only further survey effort will elucidate the situation. Based on the specimens housed at the Bailey Hortorium this species is being added to the most recent checklist for New York State (Weldy and Werier 1995).

Bromus latiglumis is especially easy to separate from *B. nottowayanus*. *Bromus latiglumis* has 9-20 nodes per culm, a large auricle (1.0-2.5 mm long) which projects out from the leaf at the junction of the sheaths and leaves, and a latter phenology (flowering from about mid-August to early-September in New York) vs. 5-9 nodes per culm, no auricles, and a slightly early phenology (flowering from late July to mid-August in New York) for *B. nottowayanus*.

Bromus pubescens is somewhat similar and there have been numerous assessments of how to distinguish this species from *B. nottowayanus* (Fernald 1941, Wagnon 1952, McKenzie and Ladd 1995, Pavlick and Anderton 2007). A field character, which I have not confirmed, is that *B. nottowayanus* has a satin sheen on the abaxial leaf blade surfaces while *B. pubescens* lacks this character (McKenzie and Ladd 1995). In live plants, the leaf blades twist and therefore the satin sheen is seen facing up. Additionally, *B. pubescens* has the backs of the lemmas with shorter (to about

0.6 mm long) hairs, that are denser towards the bases of the lemmas; the summit of the sheaths, on the outside surfaces, with or without a tuft of hairs, in a line, at the base of the collar; the second glume with 3 to sometimes 5 veins; and an earlier phenology (flowering from mid-June to mid-July in New York) vs. the backs of the lemmas with longer (to about 1.0 mm long) hairs that are evenly dense throughout; the summit of the sheaths on the outside surfaces consistently with a dense tuft of hairs often in a line at the base of the collar; the second glumes with 5 veins; and a later phenology (flowering from late-July to mid-August in New York) for *B. nottowayanus*. Some, including Fernald (1941), have considered *B. nottowayanus* to have the first glume with 1-3 veins and have used this as a character to separate it from *B. pubescens* which has only 1-veined first glumes. In specimens I have examined, the first glume of *B. nottowayanus* is consistently 1-veined. This conclusion is supported by Wagnon's (1952) work, where from observation of specimens including the type and paratypes, he concluded that the 3-veined state is rare.

Bromus kalmii is similar to *B. nottowayanus* in usually sharing the character state of having long evenly dense hairs on the backs of the lemmas. *Bromus kalmii* can be distinguished by having the first glumes wider and consistently 3-veined; the awns of the lemmas shorter (1.5-3.0 mm long); and 3-5 nodes per culm vs. the first glumes narrower and predominately 1-veined; the awns of the lemmas longer (5.0-8.0 mm long); and 5-9 nodes per culm for *B. nottowayanus*.

Various authors (Wagnon 1952, McKenzie and Ladd 1995, Pavlick and Anderton 2007) indicate that the habitat for *B. nottowayanus* is in rich shaded forests often along or near streams. The site I found this species growing in was not very shaded but otherwise fits this habitat description. *Bromus pubescens*, although to some degree a rich forest generalist, is usually absent from floodplains. On the other hand, *B. latiglumis* is

characteristic of floodplains and it appears that it shares this habitat with *B. nottowayanus*, as at the site near Negundo woods. In Missouri, McKenzie and Ladd (1995) indicate that *B. nottowayanus* often occurs in floodplains of smaller sized streams than *B. latiglumis*. This assessment needs further investigation in New York.

The site where I found *B. nottowayanus* growing in 2004 is adjacent to a site which had recently undergone large scale habitat destruction including the construction of a shopping mall and storm water run-off retention ponds. Thankfully, some habitat was left for the *B. nottowayanus*. A full survey of the site is still needed to determine the extent of the population at this site. Additionally, more survey work is needed throughout the state to determine how abundant this satiny species is in New York. As New York botanists begin to recognize this species they will have the opportunity to understand and appreciate just a little more plant diversity that occurs here in New York. Revel in the beauty and wonder of the satin sheen!

Acknowledgments. I thank the Bailey Hortorium for providing lab space as well as specimens.

List of specimens

U.S.A. New York. Erie Co.: Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, Collins, 23 July 1927, Anne E. Perkins s.n. (BH); Indian Reservation, Collins, 12 August 1928, Anne E. Perkins s.n. (BH). **Tompkins Co.:** Enfield Ravine and Vicinity, Ithaca, 9 August 1914, A.J. Eames 1728 (BH); Alluvial woods, lower end of ravine, Enfield Ravine and Vicinity, Ithaca, 6 September 1915, A.J. Eames 3557 (BH); Dry sandy woods, Enfield, 4 September 1920, W.C. Muenscher & A.R. Bechtel 639 (BH); Gravelly bar of stream, Taughannock Ravine, Ulysses, 7 August 1920, L.F. Randolph s.n. (BH); Dry wooded bank of stream below falls, Taughannock Ravine, Ulysses, 10 August 1919, A.J. Eames & K.M. Wiegand 11382 (BH); Damp woods at base of hill, Salmon

Creek ravine near Ludlowville, Lansing, 21 August 1918, A.J. Eames 9272 (BH); city of Ithaca, S of Negundo Woods and S and E of Cayuga Inlet, disturbed wet-mesic alluvial area, 5 August 2004, David Werier 2444 (BH, personal herbarium of David A. Werier).

Washington Co.: Bank of the Batten Kill, Shushan, 1 August 1915, Frank Dobbin 2 (BH); Along Batten Kill River, south of Shushan, 28 July 1913, Frank Dobbin s.n. (BH).

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***Bromus nottowayanus* - satin brome**

Photo of unmounted specimen (*D. Werier 2444*) by David Werier.

See also the illustration by Cindy Talbot Roché on p. 215 in Pavlick, L.E. and L.K. Anderton. 2007. *Bromus* L. Pp. 193-237 in M.E. Barkworth, K.M. Capels, S. Long, L.K. Anderton and M. B. Piep (eds.), *Flora of North America, North of Mexico*, Vol. 24 (Poaceae, part 1). Oxford University Press, New York (also available at herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual).



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Dear NYFA: I am a master's student at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. For my Master's thesis research I need to acquire samples of the flowering dogwood tree *Cornus florida* from New York, and if possible, surrounding states. I was wondering if any of the NYFA members will be out collecting when it starts flowering. Please send me any information or contact information of people that could possibly help me.

We will of course pay for any necessary costs. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Ashley Brooks
ashleycbrooks84@gmail.com



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